

Community Early Childhood Council (CECC) Project Summaries

Adair

Past Years' Activities:

The Adair County Community Early Childhood Council, through a unique partnership with Lindsey Wilson College, utilized college students who are education majors to deliver mini-lessons to children in child care centers and family child care homes. Lessons were prepared in the areas of Art, Music, Literature and Physical Education and taught using a variety of media and materials. Students received direct supervision from their college instructors. Also, additional local training was offered to child care staff and parents by partnering with community resources in CPR/First Aid. The Adair Council increased STARS for KIDS NOW participation in the county by offering mini-grants to centers to improve their Environment Rating Scale scores and helped centers to reach higher levels in STARS for KIDS NOW. The Council also offered assessment tool mini-grants to child care providers.

Allen/ Logan/ Simpson

Past Years' Activities:

The Allen/ Logan/ Simpson Community Early Childhood Council focused on the result of school test scores and asset building surveys that created concern about the lack of early arts and humanities education. Due to budget constraints, many high quality items such as music and language tapes, books, dramatic play equipment, and music instruments were often not a part of a center's learning environment. These items were made available to centers, and training sessions were also conducted to familiarize staff with materials. The second phase of the project involved building a strong community support system to help sustain the arts and humanities component of early childhood development. Community members with arts and humanities expertise were identified and a network of volunteers had been developed to work with child care providers. The Council improved the quality of child care by promoting the development of healthy, well-rounded children, incorporating cultural diversity, and by encouraging STARS for KIDS NOW participation. The Council then expanded the project to include a component on assessment to assist providers with evaluating their program and the individual needs of young children.

Current Year Focus:

The Allen/Logan/Simpson Counties Community Early Childhood will continue its focus on the quality of arts, humanities and literacy program by offering a continuation of the music and movement training offered last fiscal year. This training is designed to increase the readiness of children in meeting the KERA humanities core content acquisition. It also promotes increased physical activities, which will help meet the "Healthy Kentucky 2010" goals. Resource kits will be provided to enhance music and movement in the classrooms for providers in the service area. A parent component of the music and movement piece of this years grant will reinforce parent awareness and understanding of age specific music and movement activities that enhance cognitive, physical, emotional and social development. The Council will continue to promote participation in the STARS for KIDS NOW Program by offering mini grants to participants, as well as training scholarships related specifically to STARS components to increase quality child care for all children in the service area.

Anderson

Past Years' Activities:

Anderson County Community Early Childhood Council titled their project "Reach For the STARS". This project focused on purchasing materials for a lending library. Materials included items to address the various domains of the Infant Toddler Environment Rating Scale and Early Childhood Environment Rating. Second Steps Curriculum and mannequins for CPR and First Aid Training were also purchased. In the second phase of this project, the Early Childhood Learning Conference sponsored by Anderson CECC addressed this community need of affordable, local

training for child care providers and parents of children birth to five years old. The CECC had joined with the Early Childhood Center and the Anderson County Health Department to provide training, child care, and door prizes for all of the parents and child care providers that have children birth to five. The Council encouraged the use of Spanish and art in child care programs; using 4th year high school students to teach Spanish in all interested child care programs. Mini grants were awarded to child care providers based on Environment Rating Scales scores to encourage participation in the STARS for KIDS NOW quality rating system, increase arts and humanities programs, and move registered providers to a regulated level. Assessment mini-grants were offered to child care providers.

Barren/ Hart/ Metcalfe/ Monroe

Past Years' Activities:

In previous years, the Barren/ Hart/Metcalfe/Monroe Community Early Childhood Council assisted child care centers and family child care homes in improving their Environment Rating Scale scores by providing mini-grants related to music, art, literature, and gross motor equipment. The Council purchased state recommended assessment tools and housed these at the CCR&R for check out by providers. The Council was able to assist 40 providers in enhancing their Environment Rating Scale scores to participate in STARS for KIDS NOW by providing mini-grants. The Council provided assessment mini-grants for child care programs to purchase and use.

Bath

Past Years' Activities:

Bath County Community Early Childhood Council provided parent packs to new parents upon departure from the hospital. Packs included the *I Am Your Child* video on quality child care, a list of certified family child care homes and licensed child care centers, information on subsidy programs, and centers offering non-traditional hours. An additional parent centered activity, Rise and Read, provides a Saturday morning reading time for parents and children with the goal of increasing parent reading skills and confidence. By contracting with local mental health professionals, consultation and crisis intervention training was provided to centers locally several times per year. This provided staff with knowledge to assist them with behavioral issues. Finally, all licensed and certified programs have access to multicultural and diversity awareness resources purchased by the Council, and housed at the public library. The Bath County CECC provided mini grants to child care centers and family child care homes that are participating in the STARS for KIDS NOW Quality Rating System. They also provided local trainings for staff, in an effort to increase the STARS ratings of participating centers. The Family Resource Center Family Service Worker handled coordination of the mini grants and trainings. Mini-grants were available to programs that have at least a Level 1 rating in STARS for KIDS NOW and can be used for training reimbursement.

Current Year Focus:

The Council will continue same efforts.

Bell/Harlan

Past Years' Activities:

In response to child care need, the Bell County Community Early Childhood Council has developed a lending/resource library for use by the large number of children in Bell County who are cared for by unregulated providers. This library, housed in Clear Creek Bible College is very accessible to patrons from Bell and surrounding counties. Bell County Community Early Childhood Council sought innovative ways to encourage regulated providers to meet the needs of children with special needs through providing enrichments for inclusion, equipment, and materials. Mini-grants were available for providers to encourage STARS for KIDS NOW participation, as well as funding to assist unregulated family child care homes to move to certification. Bell County CECC increased the number of STARS for KIDS NOW rated programs by offering mini-grants based on Environmental Rating Scale scores. The Council provided opportunities for providers to attend state institutes to increase their knowledge of healthy child development and best practices. The Council worked with the Health Department to reduce the occurrences of lead poisoning in children. Bell CECC provided assessment mini-grants to providers.

Current Year Focus:

The Bell/Harlan Community Early Childhood Councils have merged for this coming year and will join efforts to strengthen their commitment to children in the local communities. The first area of impact will be to provide free professional development to the child care providers in the community. These trainings will be collaborated with local credentialed early childhood trainers and will focus on health, safety, and age appropriate classroom enrichments. Upon completion of these trainings, participating STAR rated centers will receive mini grants to support the training topics. The Council will also continue to encourage and support child care providers in becoming educated about screening and assessment tools by offering the Kentucky's Building a Strong Foundation: Continuous Assessment training and offering mini grants for screening/assessment purchase upon completion of training. Continued support of the Lending Library and collaboration with the local public library will continue to enhance the availability of quality materials to child care providers.

Boone**Past Years' Activities:**

Boone County Community Early Childhood Council purchased developmentally appropriate educational materials in order to improve the quality of child care in their licensed centers. The Council assembled these materials into thematic units. Materials are located in the Parent Teacher Resource Center at the Student Services Center in Burlington, a central location for Boone County. Promotional materials, an open house advertising the materials, and outreach visits to centers and family child care homes, insured that the materials are widely circulated and utilized. Boone CECC increased quality in child care programs by promoting the STARS for KIDS NOW Quality Rating System, addressed training and assessment needs, provided quality materials and resources. The Council provided professional development opportunities in the form of stipends for early care and education professionals. Assessment mini-grants were available for child care providers. The Council's project addressed literacy concerns in the Boone community. Child care staff increased their knowledge of developing early literacy skills. Parent education activities were provided to encourage literacy skills. Developmentally appropriate materials and mentoring were provided to align with Kentucky Early Childhood Standards.

Current Year Focus:

During the current year, the Boone County Community Early Childhood Council is focusing on an early Oral Health Project. This is in collaboration with the Boone County Success By 6 Program, Northern Kentucky Health Department and Boone County Public Library Community Center on Wheels. This program promotes oral health through an overview of the program, professional development, establishment of oral hygiene programs in targeted child care centers, mentoring child care staff, promoting family partnerships, and evaluating the program. Boone County also hosts community Early Childhood Fairs for the community. These events collaborate with local service agencies, child care programs, public and private preschools, and others who serve the interests of young children in Boone County. The Boone County CECC will continue to encourage child care providers to become educated and initialize screenings and assessments in their programs through mini grants. The final component of the Boone County CECC will be to continue the support of the early literacy project that began in 2006.

Bourbon**Past Years' Activities:**

Bourbon County Community Early Childhood Council's major focus was to motivate and educate local child care providers to participate in the STARS for KIDS NOW Quality Rating System by offering free trainings, supplies and materials, staff services and assistance. The library outreach van travels to all early care and education centers and certified homes to distribute books and educational kits purchased by the Council.

Boyd**Past Years' Activities:**

Boyd County Community Early Childhood Council has implemented preschool literacy programs by creating literacy rich environments at 15 child care programs. The materials and suggested activities were supported by

professional development opportunities offered by the Child Care Resource and Referral Agency. Boyd County Community Early Childhood Council encouraged centers to participate in different levels of STARS for KIDS NOW, including mini-grants for newly established centers. Also the council encouraged participation in trainings on assessment and Environment Rating Scales. The Council sponsored professional development for providers in needed areas as well as offering assessment mini-grants.

Boyle

Past Years' Activities:

Boyle County Community Early Childhood Council facilitated and provided local training for child care providers with the goal of increasing the number of local child care providers who participate in more than the 12 hours of required training. These free trainings were scheduled at individual programs and central locations based on staff needs. In addition, activity and resource packets were also provided to each center for parents and staff to check out and utilize. Further efforts were made to increase the number of centers that provide scheduled parent information activities and joint training for parents and staff. Lastly, the CECC supported and encouraged an increase in the number of Type 1 centers in Boyle County that participated in STARS for KIDS NOW. Mercer County Community Early Childhood Council's project provided Mercer County licensed early care and education centers with a part-time visiting early childhood educator who provided sensory stimulation to children and served as a role model for staff. The educator also worked closely with directors to determine priority training needs for staff, and served as a liaison to establish and seek appropriate training resources and workshops. The Boyle/Mercer Counties Community Early Childhood Council used funds to purchase literacy backpacks for individual centers and parents. Resource packets were also provided to check out and utilize. Min-grants were offered to increase the number of centers and home providers that participated in STARS for KIDS NOW. Assessment mini-grants were offered to child care providers.

Current Year Focus:

The Boyle County CECC will encourage child care facilities to host a storytelling and a music and movement event in their center during the 07-08 fiscal year. The council will aid in the process by offering items that will encourage facilities to participate in the STARS Program

Bracken/Lewis

Past Years' Activities:

The Bracken/Lewis CECC implemented a Saturday morning workshop for parents and providers, focusing on early brain development. Participants experienced hand-on cultural diversity activities and received free materials as "brain bag". Also, gross motor equipment was purchased for newly established licensed home-based programs. The equipment was changed monthly between homes allowing for a variety of activities at each home. Bracken/Lewis County Community Early Childhood Council chose to implement "Operation Tubby". Large containers with developmentally appropriate materials were distributed via the Book Mobile. The purchase of materials focused on two areas of the Environment Rating Scale: 1) furnishing and displays, 2) learning activities. Purchased items included books and pictures, art items, musical or movement activities, and cultural awareness activities. The Child Care Resource and Referral Agency conducted specialized trainings for participating centers regarding the appropriate use of the materials as well as follow-up trainings to suggest additional learning activities. Trainings served as a round table for discussion regarding how centers are progressing in STARS for KIDS NOW. This was implemented in four phases. First, information packets were sent to directors and staff of child care to introduce the STARS for KIDS NOW Quality Rating System. Second, training on STARS for KIDS NOW was provided. Third, upon training completion, Environment Rating Scales were conducted. Fourth, providers received materials to enhance their quality and reach for the STARS for KIDS NOW levels. The Council assisted providers to purchase state wide recommended assessment tools.

Breckinridge

Past Years' Activities:

Breckinridge County is a large county and the CECC utilized a mobile lending library to make monthly visits to child care centers and family child care homes. Also, local training was available for child care providers to secure the necessary orientation, first aid, and CPR training. The Council used funds to improve and sustain the quality of child care by providing developmentally appropriate equipment placed in Smart Tubs and a mini-grants program. The Council also provided on-going training locally, to ensure positive changes at the service level. In-kind funds were generated to promote the CECC and STARS for KIDS NOW participants at public events and in the local media. Lastly, the Council provided assessment tool mini-grants for child care providers.

Current Year Focus:

The Breckinridge County Community Early Childhood Council will encourage “Early Intervention” by providing ongoing professional development on the importance of screening and classroom assessment and a Mini Grant Program for the purchase of preferred instruments so every child in care can be, at a minimum, screened. The BCCECC will also provide developmentally appropriate materials via “Zoomobile” Smart Tubs and foster Council activities and sustainability through a positive Public Relations Campaign

Breathitt

Past Years' Activities:

Breathitt Community Early Childhood Council provided training opportunities for providers and offered mini-grants for equipment and materials for programs in addition to distributing family literacy packets. The Council used funds to continue offering training for providers, providing mini-grants for programs to improve quality, distribute family literacy packets, and offer assessment mini-grants.

Butler/ Edmonson

Past Years' Activities:

Butler/Edmonson Community Early Childhood Council's project was to provide information and training to families and child care providers, and to develop a lending library of curriculum materials that could be delivered to child care centers by the local Bookmobile, utilizing existing resources from other agencies' lending libraries. The project also provided and encouraged additional art and science activities for the child care setting to improve Environment Rating Scale scores. Lastly, with parental consent, vision, dental, and hearing screenings were provided to children in their early care and education setting via the WKU mobile health unit. The Council assisted area programs to enhance quality by offering mini-grants to maintain or increase their participation in STARS for KIDS NOW. The Council assisted programs with the purchase of approved assessment tools upon completion of required state training.

Current Year Focus:

The Council plans to enhance the quality of early care and education through trainings for providers, mini-grants awards linked to the Quality Self Study, awareness campaign to distribute information to providers, families, and the community, and promotion of continuous assessment in early care and education settings.

Caldwell

Past Years' Activities:

Caldwell County Community Early Childhood Council hired a project coordinator, implemented the Second Steps program, and trained child care providers on the Devereux Early Childhood Assessment (DECA). Four parenting workshops were provided during the year on a range of topics and included incentives for attendance. Caldwell County Community Early Childhood Council proposal for 2004/2005 focused on providing encouragement for the child care centers to apply for and/or make more progress in their efforts to become STARS for KIDS NOW rated. Mini-grants were made available to assist with tuition for early childhood classes, CPR, and First Aid Certification. Mini-grants were available to child care centers for insurance if they were working towards STARS for KIDS

NOW rating. Assistance was also provided to the George Coon Library Early Literacy program with funding available to provide quality resources that assisted with weekly visits to centers by children's librarians. The librarian also assisted the Council with staff/parent training to help increase literacy skills. The Caldwell County Community Early Childhood Council includes representatives from the Caldwell County Primary and Elementary Family Resource Center, the Caldwell County Health Dept, the University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service, the George Coon Public Library, Caldwell County Migrant Education Program, the Princeton and Caldwell County Chamber of Commerce, the seven Caldwell County Child Care Centers, and the Pennyroyal Mental Health Center.

Current Year Focus:

Please see Hopkins/Caldwell/Muhlenburg Current Year Focus below.

Calloway

Past Years' Activities:

Calloway County Community Early Childhood Council's project consisted of purchasing equipment for a Mobile Resource Center and delivering these materials via the county Bookmobile. Gross Motor Activity Packs and other items supporting quality programs were purchased for child care centers and certified homes. All licensed centers/certified homes were offered an incentive to "reach for the next STAR". Traveling Bear Backpacks were provided to each home/center that include a stuffed animal and a book. Packs were rotated to each child's home and then the process started over with a different book. The "Read To Me" program delivered books and information to parents. The Council also opened dialogue about child safety seat checks, provider training and issues relating to substitute pools for early care and education staff. Finally, regulated homes were encouraged to become certified programs by offering them incentives to assist them in reaching this goal. Calloway County Community Early Childhood Council's project consisted of enhancing the quality of early care and education by increasing literacy activities in all certified homes and licensed centers, providing usable and durable literacy materials based on their Environment Rating Scale scores, and providing Character Counts Materials, which will assist in the introduction and education of social skills. The Council offered mini-grants to improve the ERS scores, to increase participation in STARS for KIDS NOW and offered assessment tool mini-grants. The Council planned to establish six initiatives to impact the community perception of Early Childhood Education; 1) provide mini-grants for purchasing state approved screening/assessment tools, 2) reimbursement of Training Into Practice Project (TIPP) assessment training registration fee, 3) recognition of programs participating in the STARS for KIDS NOW rating system, 4) training on Kentucky Early Childhood Standards, 5) mini-grants for Environmental Rating Scale needs, and 6) training on working children with disabilities/behavior challenges.

Current Year Focus:

The Calloway County Community Early Childhood Council will provide 9 initiatives: 1) mini grants for screenings/assessment tool, 2) reimbursement of TIPP registration fees, 3) "Honor the STAR", 4) 2 free trainings: Working with Others/Staff Relationships/Music and Art, 5) Music and Art Mini Grants, 6) CAN reimbursements, 7) CPR/First Aid class reimbursements, 8) Council Brochures, 9) Centers with subsidy kids to become STAR rated mini grants.

Campbell/ Kenton

Past Years' Activities:

Campbell Community Early Childhood Council developed the Campbell County Outreach program. A number of free programs focusing on children with special needs were offered in the community. These included child care consultations, parent consultations, state approved trainings for child care centers and parents, observations of children who are considered "at risk", and referrals to either the First Steps program or the child's local school district. By providing a series of free workshops, the Campbell County Outreach program helped their child care personnel learn how to better serve children with disabilities and assist parents in learning about resources available to them and their children. Providers participating in STARS for KIDS NOW were offered mini-grants to purchase materials to increase the scores on their Environment Rating Scales. The following year, based on Environment Rating Scales' scores, Campbell County Community Early Childhood Council focused on specific needs in training

areas such as Literacy -Dialogistic Reading, Social Emotional Development, and Multi-Cultural/Diversity Opportunities. The Council determined that these additional trainings were needed for providers to continue to participate in STARS for KIDS NOW and offer quality care for families of young children. Mini-grants were also made available for providers to attend the assessment training and to purchase state approved screening and assessment materials. In previous years, the Kenton County Community Early Childhood Council worked to increase the number of certified and regulated family child care homes. Subsequent grant years consisted of increasing quality in those homes through support and training to enhance learning environments and curriculum. STARS for KIDS NOW participation was encouraged and supported. Training in literacy and social emotional development to strengthen children was a major focus in the 2004-05 grant. A literacy fair was held for the community. Kenton and Campbell Counties combined efforts for 2005-06 grant. The grant had four new goals: 1) Provide training on the Kentucky Early Childhood Standards, observation and assessment, and art curriculum; 2) Provide opportunities for less experienced credentialed trainers to train with a more experienced trainer; 3) Provide opportunities for programs and families to locate and utilize art programming/resources; and 4) Provide technical support to gain a better understanding of the need for assessment with reserved funds to attend the state training on assessment and to have funds available to purchase approved assessment tools. The Kenton/Campbell Council trained providers on the Kentucky Early Childhood Standards and Continuous Assessment Guide, provided follow-up and technical support in assessment, provided stipends/incentives for family child care providers to complete self-paced study alignment modules, provided opportunities for less credential trainers to train with more experienced trainers, planned two literacy fairs, and provided funds to support the purchase of assessment tools.

Current Year Focus:

The Kenton/Campbell projects this year include: 1) Professional development in the Kentucky Early Childhood Standards, the Parent Guides, and the Kentucky Early Childhood Continuous Assessment Guide; 2) Technical support; 3) Standards modules for family child care; 4) Hands -on training experienced credentialed trainers; 5) Two literacy fairs; 6) Assessment tools; 7) Distribution of material about high quality child care and 8) participation in the Annual Community Early Childhood Council Meeting.

Carroll

Past Years' Activities:

Carroll County Community Early Childhood Council focused on the recruitment of new certified family child care home providers. Funds were used for a public awareness campaign to educate the community on the importance of early care and education. Family child care home providers were made aware of the existence of resources to further their training, and families were notified of the opportunity for training for their providers. In addition, the CECC provided incentives to providers to become registered including: training, TB tests, and police checks. Finally, Carroll County improved the quality of licensed child care centers by purchasing materials and equipment that enabled centers to raise their STARS for KIDS NOW rating level. Centers consulted with Quality Coordinators and Infant/Toddler Specialists to review their resources and determine their needs. The Council provided literacy materials for the local library and supported providers with statewide assessment plan training, implementation, and purchasing of approved instruments. The Carroll Community Early Childhood Council supplemented professional development for child care providers, provided materials mini-grants to increase participation in STARS for KIDS NOW and offered mini grants for purchase of assessments tools mini-grants.

Casey

Past Years' Activities:

Casey County Community Early Childhood Council identified a significant need to promote quality improvements in all early care and education programs in their community. "Project Enhance" sought to support professional development, and reduce staff turnover through the creation of a local support group for child care administrators. Among other things, the support group encouraged child care centers to work together to increase their Environment Rating Scale scores and STARS for KIDS NOW levels. The support group was provided with books and materials from professional early childhood organizations to help them accomplish this goal. "Project Enhance" also supported the provision of developmentally appropriate environments and experiences, integrating developmentally appropriate curriculum and child and program assessments. This included making

recommendations for improvements for health and safety and extending developmental screening processes to all providers. Also the Council focused on family provider partnerships for early literacy development.

Current Year Focus:

The Casey Community Early Childhood Council plans to continue “Project Enhance,” which will empower licensed providers by: 1) integrating developmentally appropriate curriculum along with child and program assessments; 2) focus on community partnerships for early literacy and math development; and 3) enriching local child care environments.

Christian

Past Years’ Activities:

Christian County Community Early Childhood Council established a resource center that supports the STARS for KIDS NOW Quality Rating System by offering additional teaching tools to promote professional development. This included, teaching modules on science, drama, health, art, music and movement, multi-cultural development, and keys to great child care programs. Instructors were hired to teach staff how to best utilize the modules. Additional staff training was offered to support the STARS for KIDS NOW Quality Rating System and also help early care and education staff to meet CDA requirements. Second Steps Curriculum Kits were purchased and distributed to increase young children’s social and emotional skills. Providing CPR and First Aid Training, having mini-grants available as an incentive to enroll in the STARS for KIDS NOW Program (minimum Level 1), and promoting whole family literacy and safety were provided to increase quality. Other activities included: DIAL-3 assessments made available for checkout through the CECC Resource Library, in collaboration with the Audubon Area Child Care Resource Quality Coordinators/Infant Toddler Specialists, organized training on Second Steps for directors and staff, in collaboration with Christian County Health Department and Audubon Area Child Care Resource and Referral, CPR and first aid classes were offered once a month and CECC paid 50% of the cost for licensed facility staff, in collaboration with Audubon Area Child Care Resource and Referral and G.B.U.C.K Foundation promoted training on whole literacy. Christian County CECC offered STARS for KIDS NOW and Assessment mini-grants.

Current Year Focus:

The Christian County Community Early Childhood Council will provide training to providers about literacy and extending literacy throughout the early childhood experiences. Providers will receive books, activity guides, a literacy assessment and mini grants to purchase materials. The CCCECC will also host a workshop with Dr. Pam Schiller that will provide hands on applications or early childhood research. Trainings will also be provided on the following topics: improving environment rating scales/how to specifics; resources, classroom instructional assessment (to be paired with mini grants for assessment tools), and transitions, as well as facilitate providers collaboration on field trips to schools. The CCCECC will also provide educational/hands on kits (books/props/guides) for providers at the public library, as well as first aid kits to all child care facilities.

Clark

Past Years’ Activities:

Clark County Community Early Childhood Council enhanced existing child care facilities in their community to benefit Clark County children and families. Professional materials were distributed to child care settings, on a rotating basis. A part-time coordinator was hired and was responsible of ordering, cataloguing and distributing equipment. Early care and education staff was provided with free training concerning developmentally appropriate practices, environmental programming and use of the materials. In addition, training was provided on the administration of the Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale. This aided programs in attaining, achieving, and maintaining quality in early care and education settings. The Clark County Community Early Childhood Council provided mini-grants to the child care providers to participate in the STARS for KIDS NOW quality rating system. The Council offered mini-grants for providers to purchase approved assessment tools.

Current Year Focus:

The Clark County Community Early Childhood council intends to provide free local trainings to teaching staff with more than the required training hours, age appropriate materials to centers with that attended the trainings, and will perform screenings with a recommended assessment tool. These efforts are offered to programs participating in the STARS for KIDS NOW Quality rating System.

Clay**Past Years' Activities:**

The Clay County Community Early Childhood Council's project was aimed at promoting safe and quality child care for children. Mini-grants were provided for the purchase of equipment to improve quality. An extensive lending library with curriculum books, learning kits, games, lessons, etc. was established, and housed within the Clay County Public Library. Additionally, each licensed center and licensed or certified home was eligible for grants to purchase approved outdoor playground equipment. To be eligible, recipients provided a copy of their current Environment Rating Scale scores and described how the equipment would improve their score. Also, all equipment was recommended by a quality coordinator or an infant/toddler specialist and be verified by a playground safety inspector. Funds were used also to enhance the bookmobile project to disseminate extensive lending library and curriculum to licensed after school programs. The Clay County CECC increased providers' STARS for KIDS NOW rating; helped registered providers to become certified providers; disseminated extensive lending library and curriculum materials to child care programs and to licensed after school programs; and provided assessment mini-grants. The Clay Community Early Childhood Council continued facilitating quality enhancement in early care and education through STARS for KIDS NOW mini-grants, Bookmobile/Lending Library program, assessments mini-grants, and networking.

Current Year Focus:

The Clay County early childhood Council facilitate quality early care and education of children through: increased child care provider trainings, training rewards to STAR child care providers to purchase materials identified by ERS, Bookmobile/Lending Library Program, purchase of Assessments/Screening tools, community education/public awareness of the KIDS NOW Initiatives, and networking.

Clinton**Past Years' Activities:**

Clinton County Community Early Childhood Council implemented a traveling lending library of developmentally appropriate materials for infants and toddlers. The lending library is housed on the county Bookmobile, which visits each child care provider's center or home at least once per month. Early childhood professionals may check out and utilize a variety of resources. Easily accessible and convenient, the library contains resources to influence literacy development, multiculturalism, and parent education programs. Books, learning games, puzzles, and parent education materials are integral parts of the lending library. The second phase of the project focused on playground safety. After attending the appropriate training, providers were eligible to receive equipment that is consistent with the environment rating scale. The Clinton County Community Early Childhood Council implemented a mini-grant system; these mini-grants enhanced the Environment Rating Scale scores for providers in order to prepare them for the STARS for KID NOW Quality Rating System. Eighteen hours of training was scheduled to help providers increase their knowledge of challenging behaviors, communication development, and literacy. The Council offered Super Saturday trainings, provided mini-grants for the purchase of approved assessment tools, and increased STARS for KIDS NOW participation.

Crittenden**Past Years' Activities:**

Crittenden County Community Early Childhood Council provided a research based social and emotional curriculum (Second Steps) that teaches preschoolers resiliency skills that enable school and personal success. Second Steps was implemented in the early care and education centers, integrated in the public library children's programming, embedded in Even Start Family Literacy parent and child time, and supported by Healthy Start.

Crittenden County's Preschool/Head Start/ Kindergarten already implements Second Steps, and the addition to early care and education providers and the general community provided a continuum of learning for children and families. Second Step Kits were purchased for all centers and libraries. A part time coordinator was hired to oversee the initiative and train all early care and education staff, Even Start staff, and parents. The Council provided professional development opportunities and enhanced programs playground quality.

Current Year Focus:

The Crittenden County Community Early Childhood Council will provide trainer feeds for additional professional development. The Crittenden CECC will also provide mini grants to purchase approved screening and classroom/instructional assessment tools.

Cumberland

Past Years' Activities:

The Cumberland Community Early Childhood Council focused on a multi-cultural project targeting children ages birth to 4 years of age. The project included purchasing multi-cultural kits that are developmentally appropriate and stimulating to children. Child care providers were able to access the kits via the public library, and FRYSC. A workshop was provided to providers for implementation strategies of the kits. The Council promoted higher quality in child care by improving Environment Rating Scales scores, partnered with other agencies to provide local trainings, and offered assessment min-grants.

Daviess

Past Years' Activities:

The Daviess County Community Early Childhood Council implemented a training program for child care providers that enhanced their story-telling techniques. Mary Jo Huff, a well-known storyteller, trained providers in two group sessions and individually in their centers using innovative techniques on how to bring a story to life. She worked with preschool and infant/toddler classrooms. Each participating center received resource kits to enhance story telling. Lastly, the Council distributed parent education brochures to the early care and education providers. The Daviess County Community Early Childhood Council implemented quality improvement through modeling and monitoring for child care and licensed after school program providers. These centers had the opportunity to participate in two trainings with Audubon Area's Quality Coordinator. These trainings enhanced their quality care. Participants who completed a self-evaluation received materials to promote quality. The Council offered workshops for child care providers on LEAP (Literacy, Eating, and Activity for Preschoolers), physical activities and social emotional development (with Educational Kits awarded to STARS participants). Other workshops were also offered for cooks on nutrition and story- telling festivals for families and providers. Mini-grants were available for purchase of recommended assessment tools. The Council offered workshops for child care providers to improve children's visual discrimination and fine motor skills, and trainings on Kentucky Early Childhood Standards. The Council had a storytelling festival for families and providers. The assessment tool mini-grants were offered for providers.

Current Year Focus:

The Daviess County Community Early Childhood Council's project components for the current year include: 1) training and support for directors on Kentucky's Quality Self Study for Early Childhood Programs; 2) community outreach for families through the Imagination Library; 3) recruitment for certified homes; 4) mini grants for child care providers to purchase a statewide assessment tool; and 5) to build partnerships through the Child Care Provider Appreciation Banquet.

Estill

Past Years' Activities:

The Estill Community Early Childhood Council worked to increase the number of registered providers and certified family child care home providers and to increase the participation level of center-based programs in the STARS for KIDS NOW Quality Rating System. This project was entitled "Improving Regulated Care". A part-time project

coordinator was hired, and was responsible for recruiting providers and conducting a public awareness campaign. Mini-grants and fire safety and emergency kits were provided as incentives to become registered or certified. A networking opportunity among centers was created, as well as training opportunities targeted towards identified needs. The Estill Community Early Childhood Council's primary objective was to introduce an "Improving Quality of Life" project to support families in their attempts to fulfill their basic parenting and other responsibilities. To accomplish this end, training efforts focused on the training of child care staff, with emphasis on the home/school relationship area. The Council conducted a public awareness campaign, supplied parents with in home activities and provided local training.

Fayette

Past Years' Activities:

Fayette County Community Early Childhood Council developed "Learn By Doing Kits". Approximately 40 kits were assembled and are available for check out at any of the Lexington Public Libraries. These kits cover eight subject areas, with five identical kits available in each subject. The subjects are diversity, feelings, health, literacy, math, music, safety and the senses. In addition, training was provided to early care and education staff regarding the appropriate use of the materials. Fayette County Community Early Childhood Council funds were used to provide mini-grants to 38 targeted child care centers to assist them in achieving or improving their STARS for KIDS NOW levels. Child Care Council staff provided centers with individual consultation and technical assistance to complete assessments, improvement plans and funding priorities. Fayette County Community Early Child Council provided mini-grants to programs for purchase of recommended assessment tools, provided stipends for program staff to attend professional development trainings, and offered STARS for KIDS NOW mini-grants to increase STARS for KIDS NOW participation.

Current Year Focus:

The Fayette County Community Early Childhood Council will improve the quality of health and safety in child care through screening and assessment tool grants, mini-grants and professional development training. The council will increase STARS participation and provider's health and safety practices in accordance with the STARS rating system.

Fleming/Robertson

Past Years' Activities:

Fleming County Community Early Childhood Council's project provided additional information to parents and providers through a series of trainings titled "Baby and Child Safety Day", "CPR and First Aid Training/Re-Certification", and a series of six sessions entitled "Be a Book Cook". Collaboration among numerous community agencies was utilized to insure the success of the project. Also the Council continued awarding mini-grants based on Environment Rating Scale scores. Fleming Council previous years' activities were based on objectives to address the needs of the Spanish speaking families in Robertson County. Maysville Community College offered a Spanish course for all early care and education providers, community partners, and parents. This class helped bridge the language barrier between caregivers and parents, therefore increasing the quality of services. Robertson County CECC also partnered with the library to create a "Lending Library Corner". This area of the library was equipped with developmentally appropriate and culturally sensitive materials and activities. Also, theme-based learning "tubs" circulated in the community via the bookmobile and are available for parents and programs. The Fleming and Robertson Councils merged to ensure collaboration and partnership needs are met for their service area. The main goals of the Fleming/Robertson Council are to provide professional development, informational materials, and mini-grants opportunities to certified and licensed child care providers participating in STARS for KIDS NOW. Also the Council plans to educate the community and parents on two issues: literacy and safety.

Current Year Focus:

The Fleming and Robertson Counties, will combined will have goals to meet their individual service areas. Fleming County will work in collaboration with the Fleming County Interagency Council and various community partners toward the goal of quality child care for Fleming County children. The council provides professional development training, informational material and mini-grant opportunities to certified and licensed child care

providers participating in STARS to enable them to better serve the children on Fleming County. Robertson County will work to educate the community and parents on the issues of literacy and safety by providing informational materials. Robertson county will also work to improve the quality of the new child care center by providing a mini grant if they participate in STARS.

Floyd

Past Years' Activities:

Floyd County Community Early Childhood Council developed a project that addressed healthy child development by providing intense training and access to equipment and supplies that are appropriate in promoting healthy infant, toddler, and preschool development. The projects focused on nutrition education, gross motor skills development, and physical fitness. First, nutrition kits were purchased to provide nutrition education for early care and education staff that included involving children in hands on activities to reinforce nutrition values. Second, outdoors playground equipment and heavy-duty tricycles were provided to centers to enhance gross motor skills development. Lastly, physical fitness was addressed by providing an initial three-hour training for providers by a local physical wellness center, college, hospital, or other physical fitness professionals. Following this initial training, each early care and education facility arranged for individual 2-hour follow-up sessions. These sessions included a session with parents and providers seeking information regarding a particular activity or sport or instruction to a particular facility on an activity for children and staff. Floyd County Community Early Childhood Council provided registration reimbursement to staff attending early childhood conferences, provided mini-grants to purchase developmentally appropriate materials based on Environment Rating Scale scores, encouraged participation in STARS for KIDS NOW, and provided "family involvement activity" training for centers staff.

Current Year Focus:

The Floyd County Community Early Childhood Council will provide: 1) assistance to child care facilities to participate in the STARS program; 2) increase their ERS scores by purchasing materials for their learning centers; 3) fund materials and training to promote healthy habits in nutrition and physical activities; 4) promote community awareness about the STARS program and our Community Early Childhood Council; and 5) encourage training and the purchase of screening and assessment tools.

Four Rivers

Past Years' Activities:

The Four Rivers Community Early Childhood Council is comprised of Ballard, Carlisle, Hickman, and Fulton Counties. The local project solicited participation and offered support for certified and/or licensed day care homes by providing training and equipment to assist these centers in improving quality and raising their STAR for KIDS NOW rating. A part time coordinator was hired to complement Child Care Resource and Referral staff efforts in recruiting additional regulated providers for these counties and in working one on one with the centers. The coordinator worked closely with the local Family Resource Centers and/or Cooperative Extension Agencies in each county to promote literacy and parent involvement. A lending library functions in conjunction with the local public libraries bookmobiles and visits each center on a regular basis. The coordinator travels with the librarians to assist the providers in selecting the appropriate materials for use with their children and in their centers. Kiddie Korner with curriculum materials and educational kits were established in each county at the local Family Resource Centers or community partners and are available to all early care and education providers and families. The CECC worked collaboratively with each school system and resource center to hold literacy events and parent events. During these events, they established a database of children under the age of 5 to target for literacy, preschool screenings, parent involvement, and education of child development issues. On the event, parents completed an Ages and Stages screening tool on each child under age 5. Parents and children were given a "literacy bag" with a child's book; developmentally appropriate toy; a parent book on the importance of reading to their children; and additional materials pertaining to families and children. One program, utilized in two counties used the Book Cook program offered by the County Extension offices. The Family Resource Centers sponsored the event, the extension office facilitated the event, and the CECC provided each family a copy of the book being discussed and all other supplies needed for the event. One program completed a pancake event where children and parents cooked pancakes together and read the book "Give a Pig a Pancake". Each family went home with a copy of the book, a

spatula, and baggie of pancake mix. The event promoted literacy by parents reading to their children and parent child interaction by modeling a cooking event parents can do with their preschooler. The local Extension Office worked with each Family Resource Center and the CECC to provide a parent notebook on child development issues, milestones, health, safety, and needs of children under 5.

Current Year Focus:

The Four Rivers Counties projects will include: 1) training tied to ERS needs; 2) mini-grants for assessment tools and CPR/First Aid; 3) website promotion of activities to develop sustainability; 4) parent and community involvement activities to raise awareness; and 5) continued support of materials to centers through the lending library.

Franklin/ Woodford

Past Years' Activities:

The Council selected projects that helped enhance the quality of child care for the children in these areas. The focus was mainly on mini-grants for child care providers as well as trainings. The Lending Library Kids Kits got a face-lift. The Council purchased new tote bags to house these kits and make them easier to transport. The resource library received some new books and materials utilized by teachers to enhance their lesson plans and their activities for children. The Council provided support to purchase approved assessment tools.

Current Year Focus:

The Franklin/Woodford Community Early Childhood will provide mini grants to purchase assessment and screening tools; provide reimbursement for CPR/First Aid training, assessment/screening training, and professional development training for hours beyond the minimum requirement of 12 hours; provide mini grants to purchase equipment and materials based on ECERS and ITTERS scores of programs who are 1 STAR rated; and provide space in the public library for child care providers to access resources needed to increase the quality of care for the children and families they serve.

Gallatin

Past Years' Activities:

Gallatin County Community Early Childhood Council's goal was to serve more children in their community with higher quality and more accessible early childhood care and education. In order to accomplish this, the Council worked with their only Type I facility to provide education and care to children with disabilities. In previous years, the Council helped in installing a ramp entrance and restroom facilities on the main floor in accordance with ADA (American Disability Act) standards to facilities that serve children with disabilities. Gallatin County Community Early Childhood Council provided mini-grants to improve the quality of providers based on their scoring on Environment Rating Scales. Also mini-grants helped providers to attain higher level in the STARS for KIDS NOW Quality Rating System. Mini-grants helped providers who care for special needs children to make environmental modifications to include these children. The Gallatin Council provided STARS for KIDS NOW mini-grants, start-up funds for moving unregulated child care provider to regulated care, training to enhance STARS for KIDS NOW participation, matching funds for Arts Start, enriched 0-5 books selection at the public library for providers check-out and supported the purchase of approved assessment tools.

Garrard

Past Years' Activities:

The Garrard County Community Early Childhood Council chose to address the growing problem of child care suspensions related to behavioral issues. Early care and education providers and parents were offered easily accessible training opportunities on early childhood issues. Topics related to safety, discipline, and developmentally appropriate activities were presented to providers and families at mutually convenient times. All licensed centers and family child care homes that attended and met the criteria were awarded mini-grants for developmentally appropriate equipment and materials to improve quality. The Garrard CECC increased child care programs participation in STARS for KIDS NOW Quality Rating System through materials mini-grants.

Grant

Past Years' Activities:

In past years, Grant County Community Early Childhood Council provided developmentally appropriate books for providers to check out at the public library. Training in the use of these materials was available through two local conferences. Developmentally appropriate resources, equipment and informational brochures were also provided for child care providers at the four local Family Resource Centers. These items met specific content areas associated with the Early Childhood Environment Rating Scales. Two early childhood training conferences were held within the community and were open to all child care providers. The Council members organized and facilitated details of each conference to ensure that the content covered all aspects of the resource materials, provided information on accreditation, and enhanced the education of participants so they could provide high quality early childhood activities. Scholarship funds were also available to support child care providers and staff attendance at regional or state early childhood conferences. The Grant Council made funds available for state recommended assessment tools and training. The Council also provided equipments/materials contingent upon participation in STARS for KIDS NOW.

Current Year Focus:

The Grant County Community Early Childhood Council will collaborate with community agencies to improve quality in early care and education by promoting STARS for KIDS NOW and the Child Care Fund, providing mini-grants to child care providers for training and equipment/materials, hosting two local conferences, and supporting the county in providing comprehensive transitional planning.

Grayson

Past Years' Activities:

In previous funding years, Grayson County Community Early Childhood Council coordinated 15 hours of ongoing child care training that included: Environment Rating Scales (3 hours), Outdoor Play and Curriculum (6 hours), and Outdoor Safety/First-Aid (6 hours). This training increased each program's ability to meet Level 2 training requirements of STARS for KIDS NOW. Additionally, playground safety and Environment Rating Scale assessments focusing on gross motor play, equipment, safety, and supervision were conducted. Once safety concerns and equipment needs were identified, the Council purchased items needed to improve a center's Environment Rating Scale scores and promote literacy through library and bookmobile services. The Council focused on promotion of continued participation in STARS for KIDS NOW program, conducted CPR/First Aid trainings, promoted literacy through library bookmobile services, facilitated child care providers' opportunities to attend trainings with paid substitutes, and assisted child care providers to access approved assessment tools.

Current Year Focus:

The current projects for the Grayson County Community Early Childhood Council are: 1) promote the implementation/continuation of STARS; 2) promote and conduct various trainings; 3) promote literacy through library/bookmobile services; 4) provide mini grants to purchase curriculum materials to enhance child development in all domains; 5) Provide mini grants to purchase approved screening and assessment tools; and 6) promote community and family involvement.

Greenup/ Elliot/ Carter

Past Years' Activities:

Greenup County Community Early Childhood Council purchased developmentally appropriate and culturally diverse materials for children, as well as provided specialized training to centers regarding their appropriate use. Through the NKCECC implementation of the "Kids First" project, quality preschool programs and family literacy activities were made available to all children and their families. The project assisted early childhood education centers in improving their Environment Rating Scale scores by providing innovative professional development training and purchasing developmentally appropriate materials to enhance early literacy skills. The NKCECC implemented the "Kids First" project, to assist early childhood facilities to improve their Environmental Rating scale scores by providing innovative professional development training and purchasing developmentally appropriate materials and assessment tools.

Current Year Focus:

The NKCECC will continue its project "Kids First" to make quality preschool program available to children and their families and assist in early childhood education centers by purchasing developmentally appropriate materials and assessment tools. NKCECC will provide access to professional development for CPR/First Aid, training needs identified on the needs survey and Healthy Start consultations.

Hancock

Past Years' Activities:

The Hancock Community Early Childhood Council increased the quality of child care by providing much needed gross motor equipment and resources to raise the STARS for KIDS NOW rating at each center. Also the Council provided quality local training for child care providers and established a certified home in Hancock County. HCECC offered assessment mini-grants. Hancock CECC increased the quality of child care by providing training to the local providers and encouraging STARS for KIDS NOW participation. The Council established an after school program at North and South Hancock Elementary Schools and increase the number of certified homes in the area.

Hardin

Past Years' Activities:

The Hardin County Community Early Childhood Council's project was comprised of three components: a literacy package, books and early literacy extension materials for child care providers, and training to facility directors. Literacy packages were purchased for each early care and education program in Hardin County who serve children between 0-5 years of age. The package contained information on the importance of language development, specific age-appropriate activities that foster language development, and the "Ready to Learn" video. Early literacy training sessions were also available for child care directors. Directors who attended were eligible to receive early literacy extension materials such as musical instruments and flannel board story kits. In addition to the books providers received, the Council provided age-appropriate, multicultural, and gender-sensitive books for a mobile lending library, through a partnership with the Hardin County Library and use of the Bookmobile. Early care and education staff were able to access the books and videos at specially designated times and locations. The Hardin County Community Early Childhood Council's project required area child care providers to have an Environment Rating Scale conducted, then participate in STARS for KIDS Now Quality Rating System at a level one or higher. They also offered opportunities for child care providers to apply for mini-grants to purchase quality enhancement materials based on Environment Rating Scales scores. The Council provided assessment mini-grants.

Harlan

Past Years' Activities:

Harlan County Community Early Childhood Council utilized funds to encourage Harlan County child care centers to improve their quality as evidenced by their STARS for KIDS NOW rating. After consulting with the Quality Coordinator, supplies and materials for each center exceed were purchased, and technical assistance was provided

to learn proper use of the equipment. Ten family child care homes that were enrolled in STARS for KIDS NOW were eligible for material exceed. Lastly, a resource lending library, housed in the existing county library, was created. The resource lending library utilized the children's librarian and the Bookmobile to distribute materials. The CECC created a brochure for dissemination to advertise the Council's goals and mission, resource library, and materials.

Current Year Focus:

Please see Bell/Harlan Activities for current focus. These two counties have merged.

Harrison

Past Years' Activities:

Harrison County Community Early Childhood Council provided incentives in the form of mini-grants to child care providers to become licensed or to participate in STARS for KIDS NOW. They also offered Infant/Toddler enhancement mini-grants and offered assessment mini-grants.

Hart/Metcalf/Monroe

Past Years' Activities:

Please see the Barren/Hart/Metcalf/Monroe Past Activities outlined above.

Present Year's Activities:

The Hart/Metcalf/Monroe Counties Community Early Childhood Council identifies the need for child care providers to receive materials to enhance their learning environments and strive to maintain or increase their STAR level and to access screening and assessment tools for on-going screening of children and assessing the learning environment.

Henderson

Past Years' Activities:

The Henderson County Community Early Childhood Council, in its first year of funding, provided behavioral consultation services for child care staff on behavior management and mental health issues. In addition, numerous trainings were held for early care and education staff on various topics that included discipline, autism, learning indicators and stress. For the 2nd year project, the Council offered mini-grants for equipment to providers who agreed to participate in STARS for KIDS NOW. Requests for materials were based on a current ITERS or ECERS scores. A part time coordinator was hired to implement this program and to assist centers in receiving materials and training. The Henderson County Community Early Childhood Council, addressed three priority areas: 1) increase training opportunities for child care providers, 2) expand imagination library family literacy project through coordination with child care providers, and 3) increase access for assessment tools.

Current Year Focus:

The I Am Your Child Henderson Community Early Childhood Council will: 1) provided training and support on Kentucky's Quality Self Study for Early Childhood Program directors; 2) promote community outreach for families through the Imagination Library and monthly newsletters; 3) Recruit certified homes; 4) Provide mini-grants for purchasing developmental assessment tools; and 5) foster partnerships through the Child care Provider Banquet.

Hopkins

Past Years' Activities:

In previous years, the Hopkins County Community Early Childhood Council's project, "Stories Equal STARS", addressed the need for awareness of brain research, and training for early care and education providers to improve the quality of child care. This component presented providers with an opportunity to learn story-telling techniques,

and other developmentally appropriate activities and practices for children from infancy to age five. During the training workshop, participants built their own packet of information and ideas to take back to their centers. A family involvement activity was also included to help providers recognize the importance of their child-nurturing responsibilities through partnerships with parents and families. Other CECC activities included expanding the use of the county library's Bookmobile to early care and education centers, and the upgrading of the library's existing storytelling kits. The project "Stories Equals STARS" supported providers in licensed centers and certified homes by providing staff from the bookmobile and library literacy staff to deliver modules to them twice a month. The modules consisted of theme kits that include age appropriate/recommended activities, books and other resources. Additional resources include assessment instruments and support of "How to use..." training for providers. In addition, collaboration with the Hopkins County Interagency Council through a community calendar of events included a puppet shows, hands-on-activities, and parent involvement with "Book and Cook Training". The Council presented at events including Family Advocacy Day and Friday Night Live in Madisonville. Lastly, incentive packages to help the center/home work on improvements in their plan of action for providers reaching for STARS for KIDS NOW were offered after the Environment Rating Scale had been completed. The Council provided the POP (Providing Opportunities Plus) which offered various areas of support to licensed centers and certified homes, including bookmobile visits, learning enhancement modules, and targeting training needs.

Current Year Focus:

The Hopkins County Community Early Childhood Council will establish partnerships within the counties by marketing the STARS initiative and enhancing awareness amongst community members. Highlighting the need for the Child Car Find by working with the county clerks. Advocating professional development by sponsoring training/seminars/forums; furthering enhancement of overall quality of licensed and certified child care.

Jackson

Past Years' Activities:

Jackson County Community Early Childhood Council provided a Family Child Care Liaison that served as a link between family child care providers and the local Child Care Resource and Referral Agency. The liaison assessed the needs of each early care and education provider individually through visits, letters, phone calls, etc. Supplementing training and professional development, the Jackson County Council provided two well-attended Super Saturday Trainings covering a variety of topics. The trainings were not limited to early care and education staff, but included parents, community members, etc. Additionally, Child Development Associate classes were taught in Jackson County for the first time, with 66.6 percent of Jackson Counties' home providers attending. The Council placed a strong emphasis on encouraging STARS for KIDS NOW participation and offered assistance to providers as they prepared for rater visit and participation in the program. Establishment of a lending library in the Jackson County Empowerment Zone Office allowed providers further access to age-appropriate equipment and materials. The project was designed to: provide opportunities for advanced child care provider trainings, provide mini-grants to child care providers to purchase equipment and materials, provide family take home learning packs, create resource directories for child care providers and parents, form partnerships with other community agencies to provide a wide variety of family activities, and increase STARS for KIDS NOW participation.

Current Year Focus:

The Jackson County Community Early Childhood Council is promoting "ROUND UP, KEEP UP, SIGN UP, and MOVE UP." The JCCECC will round up resources for child care providers; keep up a resource library with a focus on curriculum that can be kept in the providers' home or center; encourage providers to sign up for training and assessment opportunities, conferences, parent workshops and leadership opportunities; and move up on the STARS rating scale.

Jefferson

Past Years' Activities:

The Jefferson County CECC project provided intensive director training to improve the quality of the early care and education environment in coordination with STARS for KIDS NOW. The additional training provided the director

with the education necessary to improve their center to qualify for at least a Level 2 rating in the STARS for KIDS NOW program. A group of 25 directors were selected to attend semi-annual, multi-day seminars designed to educate and facilitate networking among the participants. In addition to seminars, program directors received on-going mentoring and on-site training and support. Topics covered include, but were not limited to: criteria for the STARS for KIDS NOW Quality Rating System, developmentally appropriate practices, financial management, and caring for the child with special needs. In addition, a resource and equipment library was available to directors who completed the training. During the project's second year, the Council collaborated with community partners in several new initiatives designed to promote recognition of the STARS for KIDS NOW Quality Rating System and to increase active participation by centers. The Council provided two one-day trainings (one in the Fall and one in the Spring) these trainings were open to all the child care community. Training was determined by Environment Rating Scales reports of the previous mini-grants. These trainings were to ensure the progress of providers towards STARS for KIDS NOW. Jefferson County CECC continued awarding mini-grants to child care providers based on their Environment Rating Scales scores to help them move to upper levels in STARS for KIDS NOW. The Council purchased five recommended assessment tools for providers to check out. The Council Coordinator developed, updated and approved materials to promote mini-grants project, as well as set up the two trainings. The Council worked to improve the quality of early care and education through screening and assessment tools mini-grants for child care providers, the council also continued to pursue a 501C3 status, developing community partnership, and sought other grants at the federal and state level to enhance the quality of early care and education in the service area.

Jessamine

Past Years' Activities:

Jessamine County Community Early Childhood Council provided a parent lending library at each early care and education site in response to an overwhelming need indicated by child care providers for parenting information at their individual sites. Easy access to parenting books and educational materials such as manipulatives and take-home back packs encourage parents to seek child development information and implement positive approaches to parenting. The Council provided a research-based parenting newsletter subscription for each center. This newsletter is reproducible and was distributed to all parents and staff. Early care and education providers were also encouraged to provide a center specific newsletter for their parents. Lastly, the Council, in partnership with the Child Care Council of Kentucky, hosted four Parent-Provider Partnership Programs in Jessamine County. Programs provided to parents and providers have included health and safety, access to child care subsidy, developmentally appropriate behavior, character development, discipline, communication, and brain development.

Current Year Focus:

The Jessamine County Early Childhood Council will provide min grants to child care providers to purchase state recommended assessments tools. They will also provide centers with STARS mini grants to help them raise their STARS ratings. Additionally JCCECC will provide centers with 6 training throughout the year, allowing staff to obtain 12 CEU's throughout the year.

Johnson

Past Years' Activities:

Johnson County Community Early Childhood Council purchased developmentally appropriate materials to support quality improvement in their centers and certified homes. After consultation with each center by the Quality Coordinator regarding Environment Rating Scales scores, suggestions were made for purchases. Training was provided concerning the appropriate use of materials and the ERS was administered within one year of the sites receiving materials. The directors also prepared a plan of action of how they would improve on any low scores. Johnson County Community Early Childhood Council offered mini-grants to each program with total monetary value dependent upon the program enrollment and Environment Rating Scale scores. The Council developed and implemented strategies to increase physical activities and to improve nutritional status of young children in Johnson County. The Council worked to reduce the growing epidemic of obesity, and provided assessment mini-grants.

Current Year Focus:

The Johnson Community Early Childhood Council's goal is to continue to work towards implemented strategies of enhancing literacy, increasing physical activities and improving the nutritional status of our young children by educating children, parents, and staff on issues related to the growing epidemic of obesity in our community and in our participating STAR Child Care Programs.

LaRue**Past Years' Activities:**

The LaRue County Community Early Childhood Council focused on early literacy skills and experiences and the importance of early literacy experiences for future success. Early development skills in the areas of literacy, music, and other cognitive functions were taught to young children by providing early care and education centers with age appropriate toys, books, games, puzzles, and music. Additionally, training of caregivers, directors, and parents on early brain development and age appropriate literacy activities were offered semi-annually to encourage a learning partnership between early care and education staff, parents, and children, and to ensure materials were being used for maximum advantage for learning. Mini-grants were offered to providers to increase their scores on Environment Rating Scales. The Council added to its efforts parent education materials through the providers on obesity and health, in-kind partnership for seat belt awareness and tax credit training for parents. They also provided assessment mini-grants for child care providers. The LaRue County Community Early Childhood Council focused on improving literacy levels in child care programs in their service area through training for child care staff and materials mini-grants.

Current Year Focus:

Due to LaRue County's low literacy and the importance of quality early education for future success, LaRue County Early Childhood Council will focus on pre-kindergarten children and their caregivers to improve early childhood education with a special emphasis on literacy and the use of standards and assessments to improve programs.

Laurel/ Whitley/ Knox**Past Years' Activities:**

In previous years, Laurel/Whitley County Community Early Childhood Council provided the following incentives to child care facilities who became licensed/certified: stipends to cover the cost of CPR and first-aid training for the providers, application fee, TB skin tests, criminal record check, safety packets, (which include a fire extinguisher, smoke detector, safety gates, and other miscellaneous items designed to deter home related accidents and injuries) and a resource file that contained curriculum information for ages 6 weeks-5 years. These also included a complete "Ultimate Forms Guide To An Early Childhood Education Program." Programs were also provided learning theme boxes to engage classrooms in lesson planning which fostered the developmental needs of children within their care. The boxes provided suggested teaching strategies, activities, and objectives that could be addressed while working with children that concentrated on the cognitive, physical, and social-emotional needs of children. Funds were allocated and provided to centers for substitutes. The Council also paid for the substitute's salary when the substitute replaced a regular employee on paid vacation. This assisted early care and education facilities in obtaining a higher-level STAR for KIDS NOW rating. Materials were distributed to parents. Also the Council was a partner with RIF (Reading IS Fundamental). The Council increased the quality of early care and education by increasing the number of STARS for KIDS NOW rated programs, increasing playground inspection grants, and providing local trainings and substitute reimbursement for staff vacations and training to support STARS for KIDS NOW participation. Assessments mini-grants were also offered to providers. In previous years, the Knox County Community Early Childhood Council concentrated efforts on increasing the number of STARS for KIDS NOW quality rated centers in the county. This was accomplished by providing quality improvement items, which met not only the basic

requirements of the Environment Rating Scales, but also focused on specialty areas such as school age care, inclusion, and health and safety. The Laurel/Whitley/Knox has joined their efforts to offer Environmental Rating Scales and playgrounds mini-grants to increase the STARS for KIDS NOW level, provide free training, partner with Scholastic to provide community education reading awareness, and award assessment tools mini-grants.

Lawrence

Past Years' Activities:

Lawrence County Community Early Childhood Council improved child care programs' Environmental Rating Scales scores in order to increase participation in STARS for KIDS NOW. They also provided assessment mini-grants to these providers.

Lee

Past Years' Activities:

Lee County Community Early Childhood Council received funds to enhance the early care and education in Lee county. The Council provided quality training and offered mini-grants to increase STARS for KIDS NOW participation and offered assessment tools mini-grants.

Letcher/ Knott

Past Years' Activities:

The Letcher/Knott Community Early Childhood Council provided early care and education staff with educational and innovative programs. The local public school channel broadcast two twenty-minute training sessions per month covering a variety of topics. Taped copies of the broadcasts were also available at the library or FRYSC. The trainings were followed by a related project. Providers can visit any FRYSC to receive free materials to complete the projects and projects are displayed in libraries. Additional training and materials are available through a Child Care Resource Library, local library and the FRYSC. Southeast Community College also offered CDA classes, and providers were encouraged to apply for scholarships. The Council helped providers to improve quality child care to families by following the KIDS NOW early childhood development initiatives and outcomes: safe learning environment; healthy child development; partnerships; and affordable child care. They met these goals by providing trainings, learning packets, parent information packets, and offering mini-grants for centers that are not in the STARS for KIDS NOW program. The Council also provided approved assessment tools mini-grants.

Current Year Focus:

The Knott/Letcher Community Early Childhood Council will help providers offer quality child care to parents by following the KIDS NOW Early Childhood Development Initiative and outcomes; safe learning environment; healthy child development; partnerships; and affordable child care. The goals will be met by providing quality trainings, workshops, offering mini-grants for those centers and home who have licensing deficiencies and who may need help with obtaining or raising their STAR level.

Lincoln

Past Years' Activities:

The Lincoln County CECC created a teacher resource library for early care and education providers, which includes educational materials and mobile gross motor equipment to be rotated among licensed/certified child care providers. Transporting the equipment is a collaborative effort between the child care providers and the Council. Age-appropriate activities packs for children under age 5 were purchased and are available for checkout from the local library. Activity packs include items such as toys, games, musical instruments, etc. The Bookmobile delivered the activity packs upon request to child care providers. The Lincoln County CECC increased opportunities for child care providers to participate in local/state trainings. Scholarships for attendance were provided as a way to achieve these outcomes. The Council increased training availability locally, identified centers that did not participate in STARS for KIDS NOW, and provided information and min-grants to these centers to encourage involvement. The Council offered start-up grants for registered homes to become certified providers. The Council offered mini-grants to purchase approved assessment tools.

Current Year Focus:

The Lincoln Community Early Childhood Council will focus on providing classroom assessment tools, increasing STARS participation and increasing the number of providers in the county. The council will increase the variety of training offered to providers.

Livingston**Past Years' Activities:**

The Livingston County CECC established and supported new and existing certified/licensed child care homes and centers by providing start up grants for purchasing required safety and health equipment, developmentally appropriate materials, and by creating a lending library located at the FRYSC. Because Livingston County does not have a public library, materials were purchased for lending and are circulated by the neighboring counties' book mobile. Library materials include curriculum materials, gross motor, fine motor, and other developmentally appropriate materials and books. Livingston continued the literacy project by hosting five events to distribute additional packets and information to parents. Events informed parents/caregivers about the importance of reading, modeling, playing with children appropriately, and addressing the importance of proper health, safety, and early assessments of all children. The Council promoted STARS for KIDS NOW by continuing operation of the lending library and making resources available for providers and families.

Madison**Past Years' Activities:**

The Madison County Community Early Childhood Council provided a substitute pool program for area licensed/certified child care facilities. This helped to address Madison CECC's concern regarding the lack of adequate time that area child care centers have for staff training and planning. The program improved the level of quality care provided for the county's children and provided child care workers opportunities to advance their careers. The substitute pool program provided trained child care professionals to serve as substitutes for area child care center staff, giving them the time needed to obtain required training credentials and meet with other staff members for planning sessions during regular working hours.

Current Year Focus:

In order to address the need for accessible training, to encourage participation in the STARS for KIDS NOW quality rating system, and to improve early education, the Madison County Early Childhood Council will implement a plan that includes mini-grants, training, public awareness, and assessment.

Magoffin**Past Years' Activities:**

The Magoffin County has one licensed child care center and one certified family child care home. The Council efforts have focused on strengthening these two early care and education resources by providing mini grants for equipment to improve their scores on the Environment Rating Scale. Attempts were made to assist the Resource and Referral Agency in recruiting more certified family child care facilities, and to enhance resource libraries for the existing licensed/certified child care providers.

Current Year Focus:

The Magoffin County Community Early Childhood Council plans to assist the existing child care center and certified homes in further participation on the STARS for KIDS NOW Program. The MCCCECC will purchase materials based on the ERS Scores with emphasis on literacy. The MCCECC will also provide funds to purchase screening/assessment tools and to attend screening/assessment training.

Marion/ Washington**Past Years' Activities:**

The Marion/Washington County Community Early Childhood Council implemented three projects to encourage early care and education providers to participate in the STARS for KIDS NOW Quality Rating System. These projects provided the funding for supports to meet portions of the curriculum and the training criteria for STAR Level 3. The projects included: providing lower cost CPR/First-aid training; providing certified/licensed child care facilities with Environment Rating Scales and materials in order to increase their scores; and enhancing provider training with special needs sessions. In the 2006/2007 grant year, the Council supported STARS for KIDS NOW through six activities: provided no cost CPR/First Aid trainings; provided educational materials, provided reimbursement for overtime needed to complete 15 clock hours, implemented Spanish for tots program and classroom modeling program, recruitment of family child care providers, and purchased of approved assessment tools.

Current Year Focus:

The Marion/Washington Community Early Childhood Council chose to support STARS through the following 7 activities: 1) Provide free CPR/first aid training; 2) provide educational materials; 3) provide stipends for 15 clock hours of training; 4) provide stipends for substitutes so regular teachers can administer assessment and attend council meetings; 5) provide assessment tools; 6) provide trainings; and 7) provide quarterly newsletters for providers.

Marshall/ Graves

Past Years' Activities:

The Marshall/Graves Community Early Childhood Council nurtured a partnership between early care and education providers and parents entitled, "Parent and Provider Partnership for a Brighter Future". This program provided joint training for parents and facility-based child care providers, educated facility-based child care providers regarding working with parents and meeting the needs of the family, provided training for family child care homes regarding working with parents, and furnished curriculum and parent involvement materials for use by child care providers. This program also assisted providers who were seeking STARS for KIDS NOW rating by fulfilling the parent involvement component. The Council provided joint training for parents and home providers regarding linking Kentucky Early Childhood Standards to create standards based unit of instruction, provided a children's fair in the community to provide parenting tips and literacy materials to families, strengthened the lending library with the Family Resource Centers by creating Parent Corners in child care centers, furnished curriculum and parent involvement materials for use by providers by creating mini-grants to enhance ERS scores, and continued the support of the library book mobile project.

Martin

Past Years' Activities:

The Martin County Community Early Childhood Council created a lending library for child care providers with age appropriate materials to enhance the learning abilities of the children, and enhance their programs' Environment Rating Scale scores. Training was offered to staff and parents regarding the appropriate use and purpose of learning centers. An Environment Rating Scale was completed after the first year and technical assistance was provided to centers on how to improve scores.

Current Year Focus:

The Martin County Community Early Childhood Council's goal is to help reduce the growing epidemic of obesity by improving physical activities and nutritional status of the young children in the Martin County Community. The CECC will continue to focus on the recruitment of child care in Martin County due to the insufficient supply of regulated care and continue to support the child care centers participating in the STARS for KIDS NOW Program.

Mason

Past Years' Activities:

The Mason County Community Early Childhood Council's project provided a series of trainings for local child care providers on how to incorporate findings from current brain research into planning the environment and daily activities of the centers. Training specifically addressed brain development in the first five years of life and provided activities and materials to create an interesting, safe, and nurturing place for children in early care and education. The Mason County Community Early Childhood Council's project provided a series of trainings for local child care providers on health and safety. This project provided 10 competitive mini-grants to licensed child care providers to increase participation in the STARS for KIDS NOW Quality Rating System. The Mason County Community Early Childhood Council provided assessment mini-grants for child care providers. The Council worked to increase participation in STARS for KIDS NOW through materials mini-grants.

Current Year Focus:

The Mason County Community Early Childhood Council will continue its efforts to increase the number of STAR Rated participants; continue with the next step of assessment training for child care providers; purchase state approved screenings or assessments; purchase math and science manipulatives; and provide training on how to use the manipulatives in classroom curriculum.

McLean

Past Years' Activities:

McLean County Early Childhood Council supported new and existing certified/licensed homes and centers by providing high quality books and age appropriate material via a lending library through the Livermore Community Library. Additionally, one-time mini grants were available to assist prospective in-home providers in covering expenses related to becoming certified. Existing homes and centers were eligible for mini grants to improve quality. During 2006-2007 the Council focused on increasing STARS for KIDS NOW participation, increased the number of access infant/toddler slots (start-up funds), partnered with the Imagination Library and increased providers' accesses to approved developmental assessment tools.

Current Year Focus:

The McLean County Community Early Childhood Council will continue previous years efforts.

McCracken

Past Years' Activities:

In previous years, McCracken County Community Early Childhood Council's project, CREATE (Child Care Resources Enhancing Activities Through Empowerment), addressed the shortage of quality, developmentally appropriate, and diverse resources for early care and education providers. Resources were provided to these facilities via a mobile resource unit. The resources consisted of, but were not limited to, curriculum guides for children ages 0-5, educational toys, developmentally appropriate books, culturally diverse materials, and equipment for special needs children. McCracken County Community Early Childhood Council addressed obesity in young children by encouraging physical activity. Mini-grants for providers to purchase materials for gross motor development were awarded. First-Aid fanny packs were provided to all providers to use during outdoor play for health and safety. Mini-grants were awarded for child care providers to purchase assessment tools to monitor child development. The Council awarded grants to child care providers to increase their literacy awareness, and enhance skills of math and science.

McCreary

Past Years' Activities:

McCreary County Community Early Childhood Council developed a provider/parent library, hosted training sessions for providers, assisted with the Keys to Great Parenting series for parents, and provided information

through the media and other resources. McCreary County Community Early Childhood Council purchased early childhood books for the county library and disseminated funds to providers in the form of mini-grants to improve Environment Rating Scales scores. Funds were used to hire child care substitutes when staff attended training. The Council provided programs with funds for training (required for STARS 2,3,4), qualified substitutes, STARS for KIDS NOW non-consumable materials, early childhood literature, Arts Start program, and recommended assessment tools.

Current Year Focus:

By increasing provider's access to high quality training and mini grants the McCreary CECC hopes to improve the quality of local early care. Through an "a la carte" mini grant, providers will be able to choose between high quality, local training, training at state institutes, and will be able to purchase books, equipment, materials and pay substitutes.

Meade

Past Years' Activities:

The Meade County Community Early Childhood Council was concerned with the language and literacy skills of their preschool children. Therefore, the first year of the grant provided a lending library of age-appropriate educational toys and books to area early care and education programs. Educational kits were designed for specific age groups and were checked out on a monthly basis. The Meade County Public Library provided its services by use of the bookmobile, storage, and monitoring of the system. A catalog complete with detailed pictures and a listing of items in each kit was issued to each program. In the second year of funding, Meade County provided much needed equipment to early care and education programs that assisted in raising Environment Rating Scales scores.

Menifee

Past Years' Activities:

Menifee County Community Early Childhood Council implemented an extensive lending library through the Family Resource Center with age appropriate equipment that supports cognitive, intellectual, and physical growth in children ages birth to 5 years, enrolled in a licensed/certified program. The Council also sponsored quarterly support group meetings for providers. A "Read to Me" program was implemented and provided books, informational brochures, and a list of early care and education providers to parents with newborns. The Council participated each year in a child abuse prevention rally. The Council also provided additional training for providers. In order to increase the number of licensed child care providers, the Council implements a media blitz. Mini-grants were provided to meet STARS for KIDS NOW rating levels requirements.

Montgomery

Past Years' Activities:

The Montgomery Community Early Childhood Council addressed children literacy needs in the area by providing a monthly Parent Express Newsletter. The newsletter provided information for the parents and the providers regarding development, and developmentally appropriate games and activities to build self-confidence, increase parental involvement, and promote early brain development. Nutrition guidelines were also included. A "Read to Me" packet, filled with information geared toward parents regarding the importance of beginning to read to their children at a very young age was also provided to licensed/certified child care facility parents. Additionally, the Council collaborated with the Gateway Resource and Referral Agency to provide quarterly two-hour training sessions. The training provided education and techniques to address behavioral problems in young children. The Montgomery Community Early Childhood Council addressed multi-cultural needs in their area by providing incentives for purchasing multicultural materials. Also, the Council contracted with the Montgomery County Council for the Arts to develop an Asian Toolkit and to provide training in how to use the toolkits with children in child care settings. The Council provided mini-grants to child care providers to improve their Environment Rating Scales' scores. The Council increased STARS for KIDS NOW participation, funded local trainings, and provided activity kits in the areas of nutrition, science, and music.

Current Year Focus:

The Montgomery County CECC will fund projects and training designed to improve early care and education. The projects will focus on the areas of behavior issues, substitute provider care, literacy, nutrition, physical education, and preparedness.

Morgan**Past Years' Activities:**

Morgan County Community Early Childhood Council enhanced the quality of early childhood care and education within the county by establishing the Morgan County Community Early Childhood Lending Center. The center served as a lending library for all licensed/certified child care providers in the area. The center contains age-appropriate equipment, manipulatives, books, and software that will assist in motor-skill development (fine and gross), social development, and creating multicultural awareness. Also the Council offered incentives for STARS for KIDS NOW participation. The Council provided training materials such as math, literacy, and health. Also approved assessment tools were provided.

Muhlenberg**Past Years' Activities:**

Muhlenberg County Community Early Childhood Council's previous project addressed the issue of parent education by implementing a series of parent education workshops and providing incentives for parents and providers to attend. Incentives included free books for parents, and educational materials for providers who attended. Additionally, the CECC established a resource library to be housed in the Muhlenberg County Teacher Resource Center, and provided information pertinent to teachers and parents. Providers were able to access the resources, use the copy machines for duplication, and also had the opportunity to network with other early care and education providers. The Council provided mini-grants to providers to increase participation in STARS for KIDS NOW and offered assessment training and tools to providers.

Current Year Focus:

Please see Hopkins/Caldwell/Muhlenberg for Current Year Focus.

Nelson**Past Years' Activities:**

The Nelson County Community Early Childhood Council project was composed of four parts. The first part of the project provided each licensed/certified child care home with a tote box of culturally diverse materials including dolls, skin tone crayons, pictures, and activities lists. In conjunction with the Nelson County Public Library and Family Resource and Youth Service Centers, the second part of the project provided training materials and workshops to child care providers for involving parents and promoting the importance of reading to their children at a very young age. The Bookmobile also distributed books purchased by the CECC to centers on a rotating basis. The third part provided licensed/certified child care facilities with equipment that enhanced gross motor skills, and a licensed physical therapist to train staff and parents on the use of the equipment, skill activities, and the benefits these activities have on the health of young children. Lastly, through the Nelson County Chapter of the American Red Cross, a voucher program sponsored by the CECC was used for child care staff to receive CPR and first-aid training. The Nelson County Community Early Childhood Council provided training, materials, and support to improve the child care environment of the community. The mini-grants focused on developmentally appropriate equipment related to the Environment Rating Scales required for STARS for KIDS NOW rating system. Training included CPR/First Aid, professional development, and joint family and staff workshops. Assessment mini-grants were offered to child care providers.

Current Year Focus:

The Nelson County Community Early Childhood Council's goal is to provide training, materials, and support to improve the child care environment of the community. The mini grants will focus on developmentally appropriate

equipment related to the rating scale for STARS. Training will include First Aid/CPR, professional development, and use of a screening tool.

Nicholas

Past Years' Activities:

The Nicholas Community Early Childhood Council awarded min-grants to child care programs in Nicholas County to increase their participation in STARS for KIDS NOW quality rating system. Also, the Councils offered state approved assessment tools mini-grants.

Ohio

Past Years' Activities:

Ohio County Community Early Childhood Council offered CPR and first-aid training to early care and education staff, and provided other educational training opportunities and resources to these individuals. In collaboration with the Audubon Area Resource and Referral and the Ohio County Family Resource Centers, resource materials and planning tools were made available at the local library and through the bookmobile. In addition, stipends were provided to licensed/certified child care staff for up to 8 hours of planning time per week to develop more effective lesson plans. In collaboration with local agencies, child care centers provided families with educational pamphlets focusing on a particular need or interesting community resource guide and a bi-monthly family newsletter. Additionally, training was offered to early care and education staff in area of art. Once the training was completed, participants received materials to implement what they had learned in their classrooms. Ohio County CECC's project included: early identification of developmental problems through assessment mini-grants; training for child care professionals above and beyond state requirements; provision of Imagination Libraries in homes with young children and child care facilities to increase literacy programs; and nutrition and fitness programs for licensed centers. The Council increased STARS for KIDS NOW participation through trainings and educational materials. The Council provided local opportunities for child care training on cultural awareness and occupational therapy. The Council offered professional development related materials to locally implement Kentucky's Early Childhood Standards, and increase number of child care slots available.

Current Year Focus:

The Ohio Community Early Childhood Council will: 1) provide training and support for directors on the Kentucky's Quality Self Study for Early Childhood Programs; 2) recruit certified homes; 3) provide a mini grant to child care facilities for the purchase of a statewide assessment tool; and 4) work to build partnerships through the annual Child Care Provider Banquet.

Owen

Past Years' Activities:

Owen County's Community Early Childhood Council recruited more licensed/certified family child care homes by providing a reward package to any home that completed the certification process. The package included a fire extinguisher, First-Aid kit, smoke detectors, and home safety supplies (outlet covers, safety latches, gates, etc.). Updated age appropriate materials and resources were also provided through a lending library that enhanced the current child care environment. The resources consisted of a variety of educational toys and equipment, books, interactive tapes, visual aides, and manipulatives. Lastly, the Council contracted with various specialists who introduced music, arts, and chess to preschool children enrolled in licensed/certified child care facilities.

Owsley

Past Years' Activities:

The Owsley County Community Early Childhood Council provided licensed/certified child care facilities with educational toys, books and games. These materials were stored at the Family Resource Center and loaned on a rotating basis to providers. The Council also offered training on CPR and First-Aid, and provided emergency medical supplies to reduce health risks to staff and children. For the second year of funding, books were purchased

for children birth to 5 years and housed at the Owsley County Library. The Council increased STARS for KIDS NOW participation through mini-grants.

Pendleton

Past Years' Activities:

The Pendleton County Community Early Childhood Council planned to reduce the number of children, ages birth to 5 years, who enter preschool and kindergarten developmentally delayed in speech, language, and/or gross motor skill development by providing developmentally appropriate materials to the county's licensed/certified providers. The Pendleton County CECC helped to insure healthy and safe environments. This goal was accomplished through promoting enrollment and participation in the STARS for KIDS NOW program for all Type I, Type II, and certified family child care homes in Pendleton County.

Current Year Focus:

The Pendleton County Community Early Childhood Council will help improve the quality of early care and education for children ages 0-5 by promoting participation in the STARS for KIDS NOW Program, enhancing the library and HANDS programs with books and materials, and collaborating with community partners to offer training for child care staff and parents.

Perry/ Leslie

Past Years' Activities:

The Perry and Leslie County Early Childhood Councils pooled available resources with the Kentucky River Comprehensive Care Agency in order to provide a licensed Early Childhood Behavioral Modification Specialist to serve all licensed/certified early care and education providers in the two county area. The specialist had the following principal responsibilities: collaborate with early childhood providers to creatively meet the needs of young children within their child care setting; provide assessments of children in child care settings; provide skills training for child care personnel, family members, and identified community members; provides child care setting observations and intervention plans as requested by the provider; model appropriate intervention strategies in day to day contact with children; and, demonstrate knowledge of intervention plans and their successful implementation. With the assistance of the project coordinator, the specialist also provided training to staff in Second Steps curriculum. The Council also provided training to early care and education staff in working with children with special need, and contracted with part-time individual assistants to work with special needs children as needed. The council provided quality training, offered mini-grants to raise STARS for KIDS NOW participation, resolved licensing deficiencies, and offered assessment tools min-grants.

Current Year Focus:

The Perry/Leslie Community Early Childhood Council will help providers offer quality child care to parents by following the KIDS NOW Early Childhood Development Initiatives and outcomes; safe learning environment; healthy child development; partnerships; and affordable child care. The gals will be met by providing quality trainings, workshops, and offering mini-grants for those centers and home who have licensing deficiencies and who may need help with obtaining or raising their STAR Level.

Pike

Past Years' Activities:

The Pike County Community Early Childhood Council's project focused on improving Environment Rating Scale scores, particularly in the area of dramatic play, science, and math. The creation of satellite resource centers through the Family Resource Center offices made educational materials readily available to providers and parents. Materials were purchased for centers based on indicated weaknesses on the Environment Rating Scales. The Council also hosted a series of arts, humanities, and multicultural events to encourage parent and child

participation. Providers also received training on how easily these programs may be incorporated in their early childhood programs. Pike CECC provided Literacy and Numeracy Kits for providers, made stipend available for newly opened child care center/home, and offered assessment mini-grants and STARS for KIDS NOW mini-grants for child care providers.

Current Year Focus:

The Pike Council is proposing to 1) encourage STARS participation; 2) encourage participants to increase their STAR Rating; 3) fund the attendance for two members to attend the annual council meeting; 4) fund screening/assessment purchase; 5) promote healthy habits in nutrition and exercise in children and their families; and 6) acquire a project coordinator.

Powell

Past Years' Activities:

Powell County Community Early Childhood Council increased child care programs participation in STARS for KIDS NOW, provided training for child care staff, increased public awareness about early care and education issues, and offered assessment tool mini-grants for providers.

Pulaski

Past Years' Activities:

The Pulaski County Community Early Childhood Council funded a substitute pool of work-ready trained individuals to be available for certified/licensed child care facilities. In addition, Resource and Referral staff recommended materials to be purchased and made available via lending libraries to assist in raising quality and increase scores on the Environment Rating Scale. The Council also made mini-grants available to centers working toward STARS for KIDS NOW or raising STARS for KIDS NOW levels and made available funds to centers for their substitute pool. Mini-grants opportunities were available to assist providers to enhance their participation in STARS for KIDS NOW. The Council also offered training opportunities and built a library of materials to assist providers to enhance their participation in STARS for KIDS NOW and provided assessment mini-grants.

Current Year Focus:

The council remains focused on making STARS and other relevant training and the associated tools a priority to centers, providing mini grants and building the lending library. A new focal point is to increase awareness of the councils' mission to develop sustainability.

Rockcastle

Past Years' Activities:

The Rockcastle Community Early Childhood Council increased the number of certified/licensed child care providers in Rockcastle County by paying for CPR/First-Aid training and the criminal records check that are part of the certification process. The Council also collaborated with Rockcastle County Public Library to provide several different learning boxes. These learning boxes are stored at the library for checkout and are also taken by the Bookmobile to all certified/licensed early care and education facilities on a rotating basis. The purpose was to enhance literacy, and promote family involvement. The boxes consist of books, curriculum, crafts materials, and a lesson plan that centers on a particular theme. Learning tubs are designed to help programs to set up different learning centers. The Council updated existing playgrounds and provided training in developing playgrounds that take advantage of the surrounding environment to encourage children's active, physical activities. Lastly, the Council supported the STARS for KIDS NOW quality rating system by offering funding for items based on the scores of centers on the Environment Rating Scale. The Rockcastle Community Early Childhood Council supported the efforts of the Child Care Resource and Referral, continued to support providers in their efforts to improve Environmental Rating Scales scores, collaborated with the public library to enhance literacy activities, and promoted family involvement in child care programs.

Current Year Focus:

The Rockcastle CECC will be concentrating their efforts in recruiting our licensed and certified homes to enroll in STARS and raise their STAR level, increasing community awareness of what quality child care means and why it is important, and bringing in specialty trainings to meet our children's needs in child care.

Rowan

Past Years' Activities:

In their first funding, Rowan County Community Early Childhood Council made educational and developmentally appropriate materials, supplies, and equipment available to all early care and education facilities. This was accomplished through a lending library that provides materials, books, and educational supplies that promote healthy child development. In the second year, the project provided mini-grants to early care and education facilities. The Council supported training for child care providers by paying for training fees, materials, and substitutes. The Council also provided mini-grants to enhance STARS for KIDS NOW participation and offered assessment mini-grants.

Rural KIPDA

Past Years' Activities:

The Rural KIPDA Council improved the quality of child care in their six county service area by providing Quality Enhancement Packages (QEP) to licensed/certified early care and education settings, or settings that are seeking licensure. A QEP consisted of a variety of pre-approved items, such as indoor and outdoor classroom materials, equipment, safety equipment and supplies, inclusion materials, resources for children with developmental delays, and teacher resources. The child care providers created their own QEP and noted how the requested items improved the quality of care in their child care setting. These pre-approved items increased a child care setting's eligibility for the STARS for KIDS NOW program or helped them attain a higher quality level if they were already participating in the program. The Council provided trainings to early care and education staff on the ITTERS and ECERS. The Council improved the quality of early care and education by offering training to child care educators, mini-grants to programs demonstrating need to increase their quality, and purchased approved assessment tools.

Current Year Focus:

The Rural KIPDA CECC plans to improve the quality of child care in our area by offering a variety of training to child care directors and child care providers, offering mini grants programs demonstrating a need to increase their quality as well as mini grants to purchase approved screening and classroom instructional assessment tools.

Russell

Past Years' Activities:

The goal of the Russell County CECC was to insure quality care and safety for children by promoting professional development of child care providers and providing mini-grants to encourage and further participation in STARS for KIDS NOW. The Council sought to increase community partnerships and utilization of already present community resources.

Current Year Focus:

The Russell County CECC strives to provide support and resources for early childhood. To accomplish this we will increase awareness, participation, and capacity to provide quality services within the community. The CECC wishes to provide training, purchase assessment tools, initiatives to support family involvement, and participation in the STARS Program.

Scott

Past Years' Activities:

In previous years, the Scott County CECC purchased resource materials and equipment to be assembled into developmentally appropriate kits. The focus areas included art, music, movement, cultural diversity, early literacy, health education, and character education. The kits also provided a specific curriculum guide pertinent to the focus

area. These kits housed at the Scott County Public Library are delivered to centers if needed. The Council has also hosted a “Show and Tell” program that educated providers on how to use the kits. Also, a brochure was created that lists the various kits and gives details on how to reserve, checkout, and become part of the rotation. The Council encouraged participation in STARS for KIDS NOW by providing child care staff with on site training in using arts to develop cognitive, social and motor skills; disseminating a training newsletter to all child care providers; and, assisted local educators to become credentialed trainers for Scott County child care centers and homes. The Scott County CECC increased participation in STARS for KIDS NOW by providing child care staff with expanded free trainings; improving access to trainings through stipends for substitutes; hosting a provider appreciation event to encourage networking, information exchange and awareness of local trainings, opportunities and services; and distributing a monthly newsletter. Also, the Council offered assessment mini-grants.

Current Year Focus:

The Scott County CECC will work to increase STARS participation by providing child care staff with the Overview of STARS for KIDS NOW training in Scott County, increased retention of existing STARS providers through mini- grants, a provider appreciation event to encourage networking, and a quarterly distribution of the council’s newsletter.

Taylor/ Green

Past Years’ Activities:

The Taylor/Green Community Early Childhood Council provided a trained and qualified substitute pool for child care facilities. Also, the Council offered parent education programs, developed a lending library of resources, and provided extensive training to prepare early care and education settings for the Environment Rating Scale. In addition, the Council improved child care quality by increasing training and STARS for KIDS NOW participation, providing additional resources and equipment for facilities (STARS mini-grants), and providing assessment mini-grants.

Current Year Focus:

The Taylor/Green CECC functions to create, expand, and strengthen quality of early child care and education. This will be accomplished by an increased number of providers participating in STARS and receiving screening-assessment training and tools to identify developmental problems, and increased numbers of centers operating during non-traditional hours.

Todd

Past Years’ Activities:

In previous years, the Todd County Community Early Childhood Council implemented three projects through the KIDS NOW initiative. The first project, in collaboration with the Todd County Library, was an early literacy program. Books, puppets, science, and math materials were utilized by all licensed/certified child care centers in the county. Housed at the Family Resource Center, the materials were also distributed to centers on a weekly basis by the Bookmobile. The library also provided “story time”, each week at each center, utilizing the newly purchased materials, complete with costumes. The second project consisted of the purchase of gross motor equipment, which participating providers shared on a rotating basis. Equipment was purchased based on the results of the Environment Rating Scales scores. In addition, the Council compiled and distributed a listing of qualified substitutes for the center’s to utilize to cover staff absences. The Council also provided first-aid training for the substitutes. The Council improved child care services through increase participation in STARS for KIDS NOW and provided approved assessment tools.

Current Year Focus:

The Todd County Community early Childhood council wishes to help child care providers to improve services and address school readiness and the STARS rating system. There will be collaboration between local providers, the Family Resource Center, Todd County Schools, and other agencies. Children will be the beneficiaries.

Trigg

Past Years' Activities:

The Trigg County Community Early Childhood Council identified a need for children and parents to have access to developmentally appropriate materials for children ages 0-5. The Council installed lending libraries in each of the service area's licensed/certified child care settings, preschool classrooms, the A.S.K. Family Resource Center, the public library, and the health department. The lending libraries provide: parents with access to materials to assist them with parenting skills; child care providers with access to materials to loan to parents when a particular problem arises; child care providers with access to developmentally appropriate materials to use in their lesson plans; and, children with access to a wide variety of developmentally appropriate books, manipulatives, and other materials. The Trigg County Community Early Childhood Council determined that the best possibility for improving the quality of care in Trigg County exists in the granting of mini-grants to providers. Mini-grants were provided to individual centers to address their individual needs based on their Environment Rating Scales. The mini-grants were awarded based on ERS scores to increase participation in STARS for KIDS NOW. Also the Council enhanced children's social emotional skills through teacher trainings and curriculum materials for the lending library and provided parent training in collaboration with Community Based Services and Trigg County schools. The Council offered assessment mini-grants. The CECC purchased materials to improve early literacy skills and parent involvement.

Current Year Focus:

The Trigg County CECC projects include a Kindergarten Camp to transition children into kindergarten; expansion of the Family reading program already implemented in child care centers; a continuation of the council's assessment plan including piloting on-line assessments in one center, and min grants to improve environment rating scores and encourage STARS participation.

Union

Past Years' Activities:

The Union County CECC KIDS NOW project addressed the following priority areas: increase literacy levels for children and adults in the community and child care facilities, partnering with the Imagination Library; provide training to address visual discrimination/fine motor, and CPR/First Aid; provide early identification of developmental problems; provide nutrition information to children/parents; provide Assessment mini-grants; and offer mini-grants for new certified home. The Union CECC provided training for child care program staff on health, physical activities, social emotional development and CPR/First Aid. The council provided Imagination Library books for 100 children in child care programs, and provided assessment tool mini-grants.

Current Year Focus:

The Union County CECC Projects for this year will include: 1) providing a six hour training on the Kentucky Early Childhood Standards and Program of Studies for licensed staff; 2) a sponsorship of 100 children for the Imagination Library; 3) mini grants for providers to purchase an assessment tool; 4) CPR/First Aid Trainings to be offered for providers; and 5) to build business partnerships through the Audubon Area Child Care Appreciation Banquet.

Warren

Past Years' Activities:

In previous years, the Warren County Community Early Childhood Council improved the quality of experiences for young children in early care and education settings by sponsoring a series of workshops in creative arts. The workshops were offered to all licensed/certified early care and education providers. Providers who attended the initial workshop received supplies related to implementing creative arts activities in their programs. Providers were expected to implement activities based on the first workshop before the follow-up workshop and to bring documentation of implementation (e.g. samples of the children's work) to share with other providers. These ideas were compiled into a resource book and distributed to all participants. After the follow-up workshop, providers assessed their center's need for durable supplies, within a prescribed budget, to sustain these creative arts

experiences. The amount available to each center depended on the total number of centers who participated. This series of workshops had culminated in a community “arts event” to display the talents and work of young children. This Council gave mini-grants to approximately ten centers chosen by using a point system. For example points were given for programs serving high numbers of subsidy children, participation in the STARS for KIDS NOW rating system and participation in the KIDS NOW scholarship program. Training to all centers in Warren County was offered based on the results of the Environment Rating Scale used with these programs. Warren County CECC provided opportunities for directors to attend a forum including a panel discussion about STARS for KIDS NOW rating system, provided STARS for KIDS NOW mini-grants, developed a mentor program to support directors wanting to become STARS for KIDS NOW rated (using the current STARS for KIDS NOW rated programs as mentors) and offered assessment mini-grants.

Current Year Focus:

This year the Warren CECC identified the needs for child care providers to receive training on the Quality Self Study and those participating in evaluating their programs to receive materials based on the results of that study, STARS for KIDS NOW programs to receive appropriate materials to enhance their learning environment, and assessment tools mini-grants.

Wayne

Past Years’ Activities:

The Wayne County Community Early Childhood Council provided gross motor playground equipment and multi-cultural materials for providers that attended training on the appropriate use of the equipment. Additionally, contracts with providers were issued to encourage the availability of slots for non-traditional hours. In the second year, the Council worked with early care and education providers in Wayne County to purchase equipment to be shared on a countywide basis. This equipment is locally accessible through a checkout system and provides more expansive curriculum opportunities for children. Providers are able to utilize special needs equipment and materials for infants and toddlers (such as high chairs, etc.) for short periods of time or as needed. The Council focused on training and mini-grants to enhance STARS for KIDS NOW participation.

Current Year Focus:

The Wayne County CECC will strive to improve the overall child –well being rank as identified by Kentucky Kids Count data through support of local child care facilities, community action groups that promote parent education and by promoting enrollment in local preschool and Head Start programs through support of community events such as the Child Plus Fair.

Webster

Past Years’ Activities:

The Webster Community Early Childhood Council implemented a public awareness campaign through media meetings, promoted STARS for KIDS NOW through mini-grants based on the Environment Rating Scales, partnered with the Imagination Library, offered assessment mini-grants, and in-kind nutrition training.

Current Year Focus:

The Webster County Project will be: 1) training for centers and family child care providers on health, physical activity, social/emotional development and CPR/First Aid; 2) continue providing Imagination Library books for 20% of the eligible population; 3) a mini grant for the purchase of a statewide assessment tool after necessary training; 4) issuing mini grants to center/home providers entering into the KIDS NOW STARS Program and providing start – up monies for new programs or increase in STARS scores; and 5) encourage parent involvement in literacy activities.

Wolfe

Past Years’ Activities:

The Wolfe County Community Early Childhood Council focused on the following priorities: increase the number of child care slots in Wolfe County, monetary support (mini-grants) for existing family child care homes to assist with quality program development, professional development in multi-cultural education, curriculum based programming, developing parent partnerships, developmentally appropriate activities and lending library. The Wolfe Community Early Childhood Council had increased the number of certified/licensed child care providers by paying for training required, provided STARS for KIDS NOW mini-grants, maintained the lending library, and collaborated with Head Start to promote school readiness.